

Lomita Residents File Incorporation Petition



ELECTRONIC control panel is closely watched by Traffic Officer Fred Willis at the CHP's scalehouse in the Carson area. Trucks passing in front of Willis are measured for height and length

in addition to being weighed simultaneously. An average of 150 trucks an hour pass through the patrol's scales.

—PRESS photo

File Lomita Cityhood Petitions

Petitions for the incorporation of The City of Lomita have been filed this week with clerk of The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Advocates of cityhood claim they have the signatures of 2,411 of the community's 5,400 property owners on the petitions.

Board Clerk Gordon Nesvig stated the petitioners said the signatures represent 45 per cent of the area's assessed valuation.

To qualify, the petitions must represent at least 25 per cent or both, said Nesvig. If the names check out, the petitioners should have more than a 20 per cent advantage.

Signature verification will take about 30 days Nesvig said.

The proposed municipality encompasses an area of 1.8 square miles with a population of 18,364, including 5,124 registered voters.

It is bounded on the west by Torrance and Rolling Hills Estates, on the south by Palos Verdes Drive North, on the east by Los Angeles City and on the north by Torrance. Chairman of the incorporation committee is Joe A. Haslam, 25627 Reed Dr., Lomita.

In 1937, an attempt to incorporate Lomita was defeated in an election by 3-1 margin.

Carrier Boys Wanted DA 5-1515



CHAIN-REACTION collision involving five automobiles is untangled by police officers Thursday evening. The spectacular crash took place about 7:30 on Hawthorne Blvd. North of Torrance Blvd. Only minor injuries were reported by drivers and occu-

pants of the vehicles and no one was hospitalized, according to police. Evening traffic, mainly Christmas shoppers, was tied up for more than an hour as police, firemen and wrecker crews moved the autos from the road.

—PRESS photo

Overweight a Problem for Area Truck Drivers

Fears of being overweight are fairly common in our modern society. But no one worries more about the problem than area truck drivers.

Far more serious than ill-fitting clothes are the stiff fines facing truckers who overload their rigs.

At their Carson scale facilities, located on the San Diego Freeway north of Torrance, California Highway Patrolmen keep a tight check on illegal trucks and trailers. Trucks carrying more than the weight limit

its listed in the California Vehicle Code are subject to fines ranging from \$10 to \$1000.

Overweight trucks, according to authorities, do thousands of dollars damage to streets and highways annually in this state. Wheels of the heavy machines dig furrows in asphalt roadway and cause concrete surfaces to break and crack.

An average of 150 commercial vehicles an hour is inspected and weighed at the local scales. A maze of electronic gadgets in the scale house not only weighs the trucks but measures their length and height.

In addition, brake and lighting systems are given a thorough going over. Patrolmen order unsafe vehicles to be repaired before being allowed to continue.

Personnel staffing the local scales are assigned to the CHP South Los Angeles office. Lt. Art Allen is in charge of the crew and Capt. Errett Greer is the area commander.

Christmas Program Slated

"Christmas Everywhere" will be the title of a Christmas program presented by the Torrance Recreation Department Tuesday, Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. Mr. Harry B. Van Bellehem, Director of Recreation, announced today.

The presentation will depict seasonal activities from various lands including England, Germany, Greece, Israel, Mexico, Scandinavia, the Orient, and Slavic areas. Dances and songs will be performed by youth from various parks and playgrounds in our area. South Bay Folk Dance Club and the Recreation Department new square dance class entertain with traditional dances of this season. Music will be provided by "The Imperials" band, a charter club of the department.

The program is designed for the entire family and especially for the children.

POSTMASTER CONNER

Urge Holiday Stamp Use

"People sending Christmas cards today at the five cents first class rate pay the same to mail Christmas greetings as Americans did well over a century ago," Postmaster Clara Conner noted yesterday.

"Research shows that in 1847 the Post Office Department issued its first stamps, including a nickel stamp for the basic prepaid letter rate," Postmaster Miss Conner said.

And, of course, in those days a nickel could buy a meal where it usually can't even buy a cup of coffee today," Miss Conner pointed out.

"Since 1932," the postal executive observed, "while living costs for the American family have skyrocketed considerably more than 100 per cent—the cost of mailing a first-class letter has only increased by two cents or two-thirds."

The Postmaster's comments were made in connection with a recommendation to Torrance residents to use the first-class five cents Christmas cards. The stamp portrays the National Christmas Tree on the "Eastern Ellipse" in the Nation's Capitol.

The stamp is available at the local post office. The five cents rate permits forwarding or return of the letter where necessary, allows the use of a handwritten message on the card—adding a personal touch—and also provides speedier handling and faster delivery, particularly for cards going out-of-town.

"In recent years, people have been buying better and more expensive greeting cards—and it seems a shame, when only four cents third class postage is paid and the addressee has moved that we normally cannot even forward the card," the postmaster commented. "It is poor economy to try to save a few pennies and lose several dollars worth of cards in the bargain."

"Reports from the greeting card industry indicate it is not uncommon for an average family to send more than 100 cards during the holiday season. "To avoid trouble and waiting in line, I suggest that two full sheets of the Christmas stamp—100 to the sheet—be picked up when at the post office, and then there is no last minute panic about getting stamps to put on cards to send to those who have been overlooked or added to the list."

Christmas stamps are available for postage at any time.

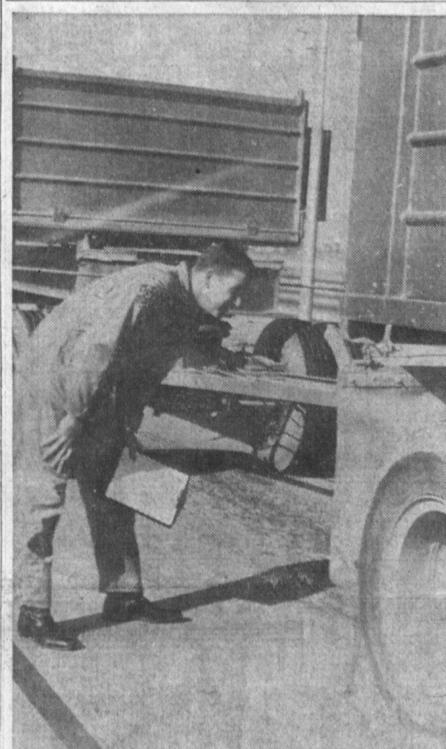
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Hammer Wielding Thug Holds Up Man



HIGHWAY PATROLMAN Warren Stueder inspects air brakes and rear wheels of a truck and trailer rig at the CHP's new Carson Scale Facility. The officers check more than 1000 commercial vehicles each day at the scales which are located on the San Diego Freeway north of Torrance.

POLICEMAN'S TRIAL IS CONTINUED

Sgt. Ralph E. Walker, Torrance policeman, won a continuance, Superior Court officials announced this week.

Sgt. Walker, on trial for burglary, was ordered to return on Jan. 13, officials said.

The 39-year-old officer, a veteran of 13 years with the Torrance department, was arrested in July on suspicion of burglary.

He is accused of burglarizing a medical clinic at 22509 Kent St., Torrance.

Man in Lomita Also Robbed

A resident of the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance was approached by a man carrying a claw hammer early Thursday morning and forced to hand over all the money in his wallet.

Curtis H. Parsons, 49, of 201 Vista del Sol, told police he was unlocking the trunk of his car in his driveway about 4:20 a.m. when a man

came up to him and asked some directions. When Mr. Parsons told the man he did not know the location of the street the man grabbed him by the neck, displayed a claw hammer and told him to empty his pockets. The bandit took \$100 dollars from Parson's wallet, according to police.

The man with the hammer told Parsons not to turn around, then fled in a car.

Torrance police are working with the Sheriff's office, who report a similar incident in their area near Lomita.

Sheriff's officers report a robber carrying a hammer held up a man in the parking lot of a Lomita restaurant and escaped with approximately \$30.

Ernest Sagahon, 38, of Redondo Beach told Sheriff's deputies he was stopped by a man carrying a claw hammer as he left his car in the cafe parking lot. The robber reportedly stepped from the shadows, took the money and fled.

Police believe both hold-up may have been committed by the same man.

A POLICEMAN'S LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS

Dear Santa: I realize that I'm asking for an awful lot this year, perhaps more than even you can give, but since this is not a selfish request, I'm sure you'll do your best to fulfill it.

As we once again celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, bring to every driver the spirit of brotherhood to make him more considerate and thoughtful of his fellow motorists, now and in the new year just ahead.

Fill his Christmas stocking with great driving skill, good judgment and patience. Leave him a bright candle of understanding to help him see the other fellow's needs, as well as his own, behind the wheel; and to light his way safely over the highways in the darkness of the night.

Give every pedestrian a candy cane of caution that he may walk with care and always reach his destination without accident or injury.

And if you hang a wreath on someone's door, Santa, please make it a bright and shiny one representing the new life and the beginning in Christmas, not the dark and somber wreath of death which has hung on the homes of so many traffic victims at Christmas time in years gone by.

In closing, Santa, I'd like to ask you to be especially careful yourself this year—so many drivers just don't realize they could kill Santa Claus.

With best wishes for your safety,
Your Traffic Officer
Traffic Education Section
Los Angeles Police Department



PEN IN HAND, little three-year-old Dianne Knight of Torrance begins, for the first time, her letter to Santa Claus. Dianne is joined by thousands of youngsters from all over the world in the annual message to the jolly old fellow who lives at the North Pole.

This year, kids in Torrance will get an answer from Santa in the form of a post card mailed, of course, from the North pole. To see some letters sent to Santa from kids like Dianne, see page B-6 of today's PRESS.

—PRESS photo by David Rans